

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-29, 33-36, 38, 40, 42, 47, 50, 51, 55-59, 62, 65 and 68 were previously cancelled. Claims 30, 31, 32, 44, 63 and 69 are currently amended. Claims 37, 39, 41, 43, 46, 49, 54, 61, 64 and 67 are currently cancelled. Claims 45, 48, 52, 53, 60 and 66 are carried forward, all as follows.

Claims 1-29 (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A device for aligning sheets transversely with respect to a sheet running direction comprising:

a sheet support including a side register mark;

a suction roller positioned at a fixed distance above said sheet support during transverse alignment of the sheets and having a length and a longitudinal axis of rotation both extending in the sheet running direction; ~~and~~

means for driving said suction roller for continuous rotation about said longitudinal axis of rotation through less than one revolution during engagement of said suction roller with each successive sheet to be aligned against said side register mark; and

a plurality of sheet holding surface segments ~~segment~~ spaced from each other on a circumference of said suction roller, each said sheet holding surface segment having a longitudinal distance in the sheet running direction, and having a transverse distance in a

direction of said circumference of said suction roller and transverse to the sheet running direction, said longitudinal distance of said sheet holding surface segment of said suction roller being greater than said transverse distance of said sheet holding surface segment by a ratio of at least 3 to 1, said transverse distance being less than said circumference of said suction roller, successive ones of said sheet holding surface segments spaced on said circumference of said suction roller being in engagement with successive ones of the sheets supported on said sheet support to move each successive sheet on said sheet support transversely to said sheet running direction and into engagement with said side register mark.

31. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 30 further including first, second and third sheets being arrangable along said length of said suction roller while being aligned transversely to the sheet running direction.

32. (Currently Amended) ~~The A device of claim 30 wherein: for aligning sheets transversely with respect to a sheet running direction comprising;~~

~~a sheet support including a side register mark;~~

~~a sheet transport suction roller positioned above said sheet support;~~

~~means for rotating~~ said sheet transport suction roller is rotated though one half a revolution for each sheet to be aligned against said side register mark.

~~at least first and second circumferentially spaced suction hole segments on said roller,~~
~~each of said first and second spaced suction hole segment having a plurality of circumferentially~~
~~spaced and axially extending suction holes, each said at least first and second circumferentially~~
~~spaced suction hole segment being adapted to exert a suction pull on a separate one of a~~
~~plurality of sheets to be sequentially aligned against said side register mark.~~

Claims 33-43 (Cancelled)

44. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 30~~43~~ wherein said ratio is greater than 5.

45. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 30 wherein said sheet support is a feed table.

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 30 wherein said suction roller has spaced suction hole segments on a peripheral surface and alternating spaced non-suction hole segments, and further including a stationary pipe supporting said suction roller for rotation, means supplying suction air to said stationary pipe, and a narrow suction slit on said stationary pipe, said narrow suction slit being alignable with said suction holes to define a narrow suction strip of said suction holes charged with suction.

49-51. (Cancelled)

52. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 30 further including means for moving sheets from said sheet support in the sheet running direction with a lateral offset.

53. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 48 further including a tolerance strip defined by an edge of a sheet entering said sheet support, said narrow suction strip being arranged between said tolerance strip and lateral offset edges of sheets supported by said sheet support.

54-59. (Cancelled)

60. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 30 further including a suction roller drive.

61. (Cancelled)

62. (Cancelled)

63. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 30 wherein said ~~further including means for~~ driving said suction roller include, ~~and including~~ bevel drive gears and a drive shaft rotatably supported transverse to said suction roller and beneath said sheet support.

64. (Cancelled)

65. (Cancelled)

66. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 30 further including a flexible belt above said sheet support, said flexible belt driving said suction roller for rotation.

67. (Cancelled)

68. (Cancelled)

69. (Currently Amended) A method for aligning sheets transversely to a sheet running direction including;

providing a sheet support;

positioning sheet side register marks on said sheet support;

arranging at least first, second and third sheets in a scaled manner on said sheet support in the sheet running direction;

providing a suction roller having a longitudinal axis;

providing a drive for said suction roller;

supporting said driven suction roller for continuous rotation at a fixed distance above said sheet support and about with said longitudinal axis extending in the sheet running direction;

moving said first, previously aligned sheet in the sheet running direction and transversely away from said sheet side register marks;

concurrently grasping said second one of said sheets from above using said continuously rotating, driven suction roller and moving said second sheet transversely to the sheet running direction beneath said first sheet into engagement with said sheet side register marks during said grasping of said second sheet by said suction roller; and

concurrently supporting said third one of said sheets on said sheet support and transporting said third one of said sheets ~~it~~ in the sheet running direction beneath said second sheet during grasping of said second sheet ~~being grasped~~ by said suction roller and during said moving of said second sheet transversely to the sheet running direction and into engagement with said side register marks by said continuous rotation of said driven suction roller.